New Teachers: Just Another Tool in the Shed?

John Armstrong

Reclining back in his easy chair at the end of a long day, almost as if recounting his years when he was a high school teenager, Mr. Patrick Jacobeen relaxes in his new office located next to campus ministry. He always carries a delightful smile and welcomes everyone who walks by his office, even if they are just visiting MJ’s for her signature candy jar. But is there more to this smiling man than meets the eye? Is he just another new teacher at a high school full of teenagers, or is he a teacher, mentor, and friend?

Mr. Jacobeen is a graduate of Belmont Abbey College and has come to Catholic because he loves working with youth and thinks that faith is an important part of life. He mentioned “I want to pass on my experiences and faith to the student not just with knowledge, but with heart as well”.

His role here at Charlotte Catholic includes not only a part-time religion teacher for four classes of freshman and sophomores, but he also acts as an assistant to MJ Dawson for campus ministry affairs. In addition, he helps out with school liturgies and seeks anyone who wants to help out. Whether it is for helping set up for mass, being a singer, finding an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, or just someone to read, he’s the one to see. He said, “I want to make this school a better and better place for students to grow. Whatever I can contribute, I’m willing to”.

He thinks very highly of the Charlotte Catholic community and believes it represents the Catholic Faith very well. He remarked how everyone’s hearts seem to be in the right place and that there is always room for improvements from experiences. He said, “I plan to stay as long as the Lord is asking me to be here”.

But one must not think of Mr. Jacobeen as just another new religion teacher who is all about God and Jesus. No, He seeks ways to help the students in any way, shape, or form. He would love for students to feel comfortable visiting him to hang out or come by and chill.

“I just want to get to know students and act as a mentor if needed or just act as someone to talk to or share experiences”.

So whether it be to ask a question about your faith, or you just want some place you can ‘escape’ from the stresses of school, Mr. Patrick Jacobeen is the teacher, advisor, and mentor you should stop by and see. He’s typically available before and after school, and during F and G periods. He also attends daily mass in the chapel at break. Give it a try. He’d love to see you. But don’t just go to him if you’re looking for someone new, there is also plenty of other new teachers at Charlotte Catholic that would love to contribute to the school’s community in any way possible.